

REMARKS

Claims 17 and 18 have been added based on the disclosure at, e.g., page 121, line 22 to page 122, line 8; page 122, line 24 to page 123, line 1; and the Examples in the specification.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-10

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose (US 2001/0028382 A1) in view of Takahashi (JP 2003-073598 A) and Nojima (US 2002/0045035 A1).

In response, Applicants note initially that arguments like those presented on page 11 in the last response still apply, and the Examiner does not appear to have responded to them, so Applicants have presented similar arguments below (adjusted to refer to the Nojima published application) and request the Examiner's specific response.

That is, with respect to the Examiner's citation of the disclosure at column 22, lines 1-10 in Nojima (see page 12 of the Office Action; the corresponding disclosure is at paragraphs [0180]-[0182] in the Nojima publication), Applicants submit that paragraphs [0180]-[0182] in the Nojima publication clearly concern a porous interlayer (which is different from the ink absorptive layer as can be seen from the disclosure in paragraph [0181]), and thus the Nojima publication neither teaches nor suggests a colorant receiving layer having a porous structure as presently claimed.

Further, Applicants submit that the Nojima publication discloses at paragraphs [0033]-[0035] that its ink absorptive layer contains inorganic particles, which would not be applied by one of ordinary skill in the art for a colorant receiving layer containing organic fine particles.

In this regard, Applicants note that the bottom of page 12 of the Office Action cites Nojima's paragraph [0119] in connection with polymer fine particles, but paragraph [0119] actually refers to inorganic fine particles.

Moreover, the top of page 13 in the Office Action cites Nojima's paragraph [0086] in regard to the recitation in present claims 6-10 that the porous structure of the colorant receiving layer is formed of secondary particles of polymer fine particles, but paragraph [0086] of Nojima actually discloses that inorganic particles may be dispersed as secondary aggregation particles.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious Applicants' invention, and thus withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 5 and 11-15

On page 13 of the Office Action, claims 5 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose (US 2001/0028382 A1), Takahashi (JP 2003-073598 A) and Nojima et al. (US 2002/0045035 A1), and further in view of Yoshino et al. (US 5955185 A).

In response, Applicants submit that Yoshino does not make up for the deficiencies argued above with respect to Ichinose, Takahashi and Nojima, and thus Ichinose, Takahashi, Nojima, and Yoshino does not render obvious claim 1, let alone claims 5 and 11-15, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious Applicants' invention, and thus withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claim 16

On page 14 of the Office Action, claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose (US 2001/0028382 A1), Takahashi (JP 2003-073598 A) and Nojima et al. (US 2002/0045035 A), and further in view of Terase et al. (US 2002/0174805A).

In response, Applicants submit that some of the reasoning presented on page 12 in the last response still applies, and the Examiner does not appear to have responded to that reasoning, so Applicants have presented similar reasoning below (adjusted to refer to the Ichinose) and request the Examiner's specific response.

That is, Applicants submit that Terase concerns compositions like a coating composition for outer walls of structures such as buildings and bridges and a floor polish composition for floors of commercial facilities such as supermarkets, department stores, and hotels (see paragraph [0005] and claim 11 in Terase), and thus does not teach or suggest anything related to recording medium. Applicants submit that since one would not have applied a recording medium to outer wall of buildings and bridges or to floors, one would not have used the teachings of Terase in Ichinose.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious Applicants' invention, and thus withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

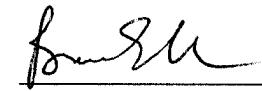
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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